

IN THE CLAIMS:

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application follows:

1. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog providing user selected control of burning rate, comprising:

a combustible material agglomerated into a ~~predetermined~~ shape having top and bottom surface configured for supporting the firelog during combustion and dimensioned for use as a combustible firelog;

a flammable wrapper surrounding said combustible firelog; and

at least one combustion shield joined to said flammable wrapper adjacent said top or bottom surface to reduce the air reaching a portion of the surface of said combustible firelog;

said combustion shield being of a fireproof, or fire retardent, material;

wherein user positioning of said combustible firelog for burning with said combustion shield retained underneath said combustible firelog shields that portion of said combustible material from air to reduce the burning rate; and

wherein burning of said combustible firelog with said combustion shield retained on an upper ~~or side surface~~ of said combustible firelog ~~by said user~~ allows the combustion shield to separate from the combustible firelog as said wrapper burns so that the combustion shield does not substantially impact burning rate.

2. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1, wherein said combustion shield is adapted with ~~perforations~~ apertures disposed on at least portions of its surface ~~to allow for a predetermined amount of combustion~~ which

increase the available combustible firelog surface area in relation to a combustion shield without said apertures.

3. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1:

wherein said combustion shield is configured to allow full or partial removal ~~may be at least partially removed by the~~ at consumer's discretion to expose additional portions of said firelog prior to burning;

wherein the rate of combustion is selected by said consumer prior to igniting said firelog, in response to orientation of said firelog and the extent, if any, of discretionary combustion shield removal.

4. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 3, ~~wherein a pull-cord, or equivalent, is~~ further comprising means for grasping attached to said combustion shield to facilitate full or partial removal of said shield.

5. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog having an adjustable combustion rate, comprising:

combustible material agglomerated into a combustible firelog; and

means for selectively shielding ~~one or more~~ an exterior surface portion ~~portions~~ of said firelog from combustion during a portion of the time that said firelog is being burned;

wherein said selective shielding means is configured to selectively change the combustion rate of said firelog in response to user selection of the surface area of said

shielding which is retained under said firelog.

6. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 5:

wherein said means for selectively shielding said firelog comprises a combustion shield of a fire-resistant or fireproof material;

wherein said combustion shield is positioned proximal to said firelog to restrict airflow from reaching portions of the surface of the firelog to reduce the resulting combustion rate;

wherein said selective shielding means is configured so that when it is not oriented under said firelog during combustion, the shielding means falls away as the surrounding portions of the wrapper burn away.

7. (original) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield comprises a metallic foil material.

8. (original) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 7, wherein said metallic foil is less than approximately 30 mils thick.

9. (previously amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion rate may be adjusted by positioning at least a portion of said combustion shield on the underside of said firelog.

10. (previously amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield is attached to the surface of said firelog.

11. (previously amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield is joined to a flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog.

12. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 9, further comprising ~~a pull tab, or equivalent, which allows the~~ means for grasping configured for allowing a user to fully or partially remove said combustion shield to alter the combustion rate.

13. (canceled): In a manufactured firelog having a combustible material that has been formed into a predetermined shape and surrounded by a flammable wrapper, wherein the improvement comprises:

segmenting said manufactured firelog and associated wrapper to allow the consumer to separate said firelog and wrapper into sections prior to burning;

wherein the user can control the duration of the fire and heat produced by burning one individual portion of the firelog, the firelog as a whole, multiple separated portions, or a combination of an entire firelog and one or more separated portions.

14. (currently amended): In a manufactured firelog having a combustible material that has been formed into a ~~predetermined~~ shape dimensioned for use as a combustible firelog and surrounded by a flammable wrapper, wherein the improvement

comprises:

forming said manufactured firelog as complementary shapes that may be nested, ~~or equivalent~~, during burning; and

wherein the complementary shapes may be burned separately to provide one level of heat output and fire duration, or nested together to provide a second level of heat output and fire duration.

14. (duplicate claim 14 cancelled).

Claims 15-50 (Canceled).

51. (currently amended): In a manufactured firelog formed from an agglomeration of combustible material in a ~~predetermined~~ shape dimensioned for use as a combustible firelog product, wherein the improvement comprises:

incorporating a combustion shield of a fire-resistant or fireproof material positioned to cover a portion of the surface of said firelog to restrict air from reaching portions of the surface of the firelog to reduce the combustion rate;

wherein said firelog is configured so that said combustion shield can be oriented under said firelog to provide a first burning rate, or oriented in other positions to provide a second burning rate which is higher than said first burning rate.

52. (currently amended): The manufactured firelog as recited in claim 51, wherein said combustion shield comprises a ~~thin~~ flexible metallic foil attached to a

flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog.

53. (currently amended): The manufactured firelog as recited in claim 52, wherein said combustion shield is ~~adapted~~ configured for full or partial removal from said firelog to alter the amount of firelog surface area being covered by said combustion shielding thereby altering ~~provided which alters~~ the resulting combustion rate.

Claims 54-56: Canceled

57. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1, wherein said combustion material comprises combustible materials, binding agents, and solid combustion aids.

58. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1, wherein combustion shield attached to the wrapper is configured to fall away from the firelog as the surrounding portions of the wrapper are burned away.

59. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 5, wherein the surface area of the shield retained under the firelog can be selected by the user in response to orienting of the firelog and shield means to select the extent, if any, that the shielding means is retained beneath the underside of the firelog, and/or the area of the firelog covered by the shield means when the shield means is configured with a user-selectable size.

60. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 59, wherein said combustible firelog is configured so that said selective shielding means can be oriented under said firelog to provide a first burning rate, or oriented away from the underside of the firelog to provide a second burning rate which is higher than said first burning rate.

61. (new): A manufactured firelog, comprising:
a combustible material formed into a first firelog portion of a first shape; and
a combustible material formed into a second firelog portion of a second shape;
wherein said second shape is configured for being nested with said first shape;
a combustible wrapper separately covering each of said first and said second firelogs;
whereby the nested combination of first and second firelog portions may be burned as a single unit or separated from one another and either firelog portion burned individually.

62. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 61, further comprising means for separably adhering the wrapper of said first firelog with the nested configuration with said second firelog.